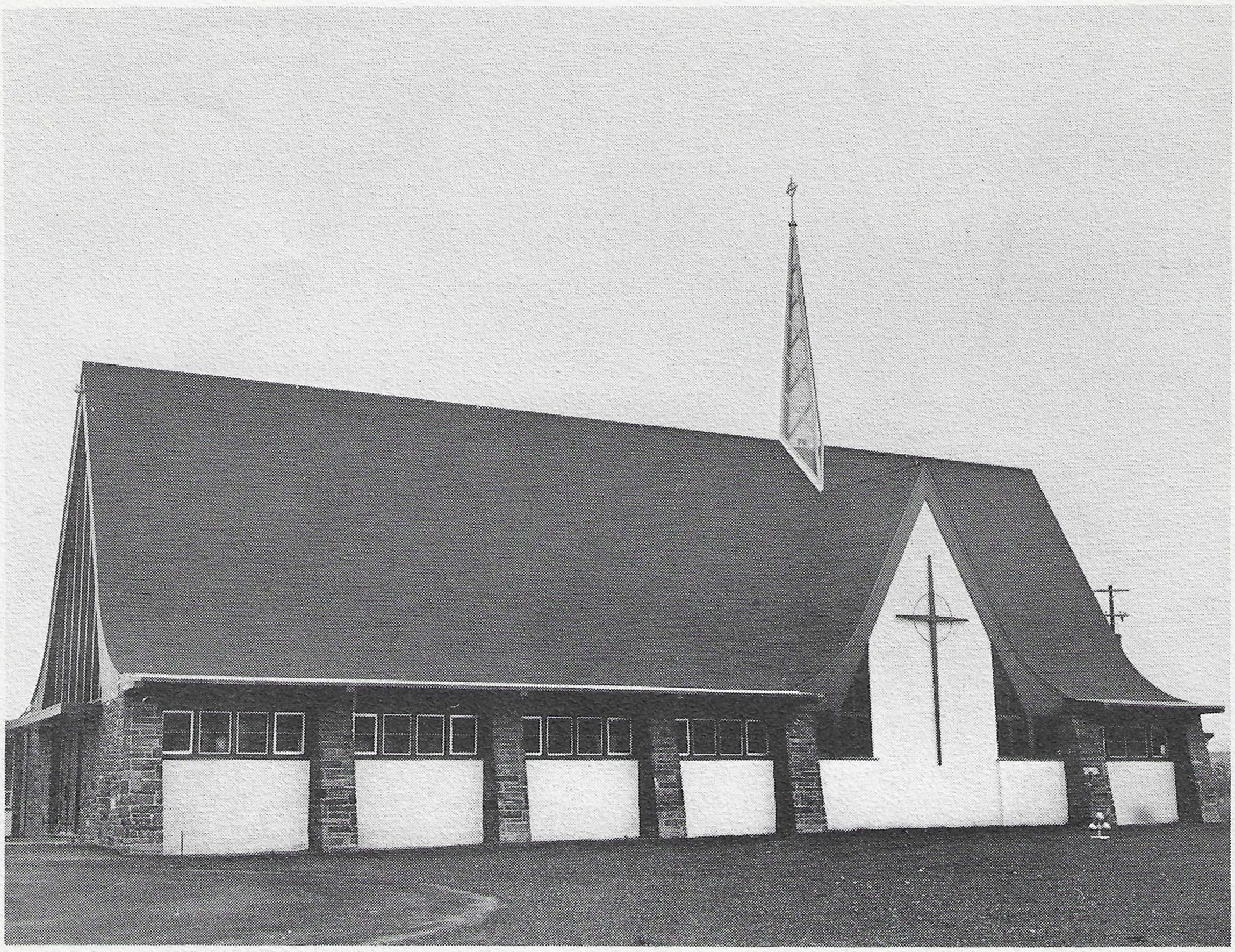
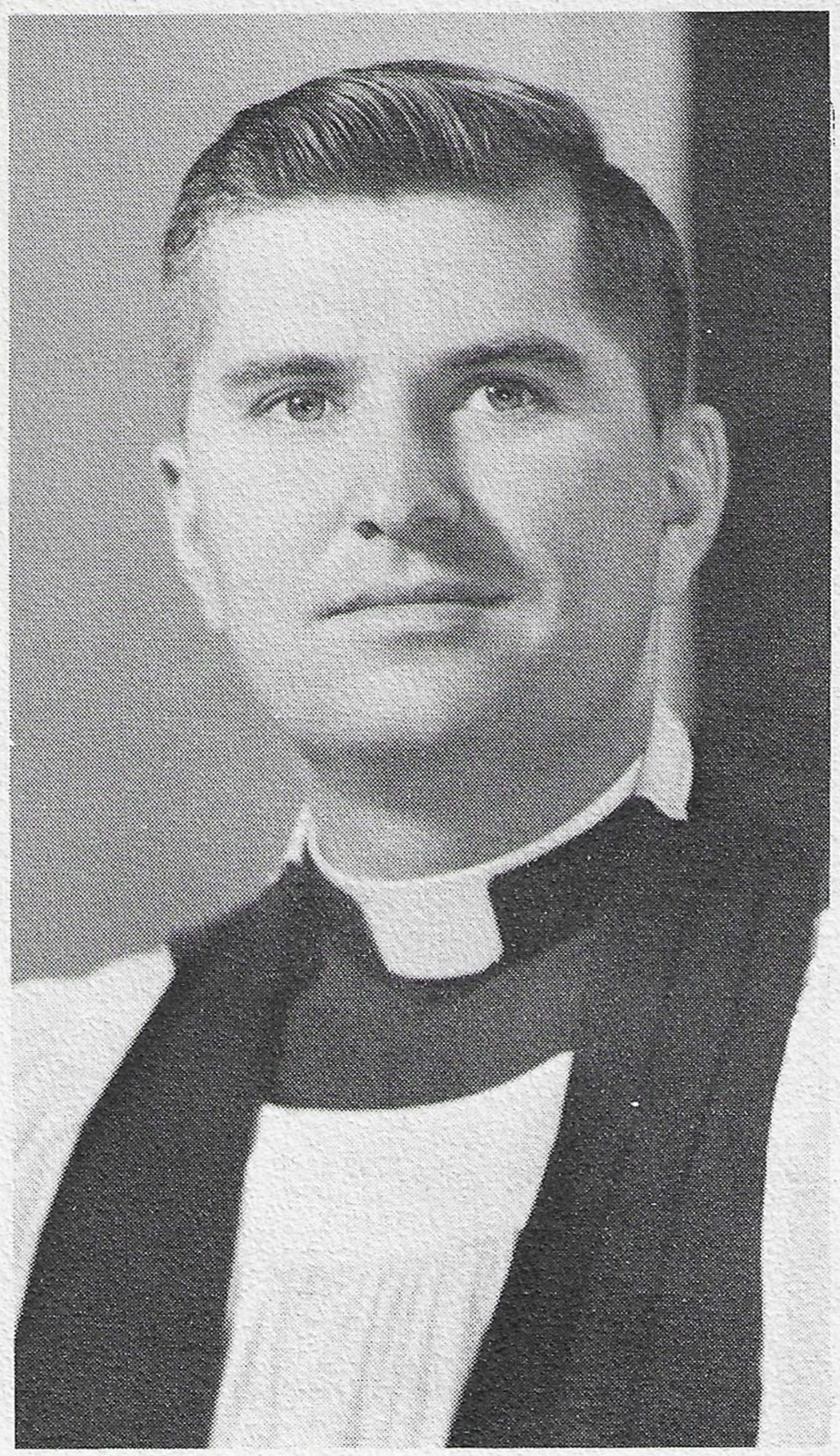
Emmanuel Episcopal Church

QUAKERTOWN, BUCKS COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA



A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR



Dear Friends:

As I look back on all of the tremendous doings of these last several years, I am impressed with three things; first the sheer magnitude of what we have attempted and what we have done. We must realize that we have raised sums that might be thought impossible for any congregation of our size and economic abilities. We have dared to think of what is and will be needed and through this vision and trust in our all-providing God, we have actually succeeded! Actually succeeded! I have to keep repeating this to myself, amidst a heart welling up with gratitude and pride; we have actually succeeded!

But success comes to us not with any ease or lack of care. It took tremendous work and many alarms and disheartenments before we reached this point. I shall never forget two criticisms of what we were attempting. One was that we had made everything of our church's work to revolve around

this one great project. The other was that it unjustly placed too great a challenge and burden on the church at that time. I could not agree more. I still think so. The task was so great that it did indeed absorb more than its share of our life and substance. But it was a task so necessary, so good, so right, that it had to do so. In meeting the challenge, most of us have found great blessing of God. Some have fallen before it, as a great stumbling block. There will be much rebuilding of them to be done, as we enter into our new House of God's Glory. And even the task of completing our payment for its building is not over, but must go on, with the same enthusiastic work, as in the past. This, the meeting of our challenge, is my second great impression and memory of this work of building.

My third and lasting impression of our building of the new Emmanuel Church is something that lies in the future. This church is meant to last. It is the finest structure that we could ever have. But buildings are things meant to serve people. A church is not a building, however glorious that building may be! A church is people--Christ's people, living, working, and believing Christ! Since Christ's flock has such a building to call its own, it can and must carry out the better its purpose and destiny. Otherwise all of the challenge and fulfillment of this, our glorious

task, were all in vain! This structure must indeed be where

"...true faith, the fear of God, and brotherly love ever remain: consecrated to prayer and to the praise of the Most Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!...

Ours has been a tremendous challenge. It continues to be so! Christ calls us, even now, not to our ease, but to our work. For the next generation we will be paying for this church. For the rest of our lives we shall be laboring, giving, serving Him -- Our Gracious Savior and Lord, our God and Brother, our goal and forerunner -- Jesus Christ! Up Christians! Forward Churchmen! For as is the task which we have seen and are seeing -- so is the vistory we have seen and are seeing. Let it be said of us that when we have a taste of victory, as in the success of this building, we are forever after reaching out in life and labor until we have the ultimate victory with Him -- to whom together with the Father and the Holy Ghost be all might and victory, now and forevermore!

Frederick V. Kettle.

HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

On October 30, 1887, the Reverend Thomas L. Franklin, D.D., held the first services in connection with Emmanuel Church in Shive's Hall on North 3rd Street. Services were well attended and a Sunday School was organized under the superintendence of Norman Stoneback of Quakertown, which position he held until his death in 1890. Several laymen were sent by the Diocese to serve the mission and in September 1888, the Reverend J. Thompson Carpenter was appointed by Bishop O. W. Whitaker as Missionary for Upper Bucks County with headquarters at Quakertown.

During the winter of 1888-89, Mr. Carpenter was engaged in securing funds for the erection of a church building, which was begun at the Broad Street location in April 1889. On October 20, 1889 the church was opened for divine worship. The new church was consecrated May 27, 1890. It was administered under the Convocation of Germantown.

Contributions for the new church were made by various Philadelphia and suburban churches, Sunday Schools, and many individuals, mostly Philadelphia friends; but a handful of local people. Probably the most active and influential persons whose efforts helped found this church, were the members of the Moffitt family of Rockhill Township and Mr. Norman Stoneback, who started the Sunday School. J. S. Harley also gave substantial help.

The Parish House was not a part of the original church, but was added in 1904.

Mention should be made of St. Mary's Guild, which was a group of interested men and women (many not Episcopalians), organized in the early days of the church to help raise funds and give support. For many years, there were very few communicants and poor attendance; often only three to a dozen in the congregation. More than once the Diocese seriously considered closing the mission entirely. Then the Convocation of Norristown took charge of the mission from the Convocation of Germantown.

The Reverend J. T. Carpenter served as Missionary in charge until 1895, when ill health compelled him to give up the work, but he returned on occasion to hold services. The Reverend George Gassner served one year, then followed a long succession of supply clergy and Divinity students. There were many years when we had no resident vicar. Over the years, Emmanuel Church has been served by many fine and able men.

The Reverend William J. Wilkie served from 1917 to 1934, the longest period of service by any clergy in the history of Emmanuel Church. After his ministry the church was served by the Rector of Holy Trinity, Lansdale. The Reverend Aubrey Cragg served three years.

Under the able leadership of Captain C. J. Atkinson, from the year 1937, the church started

making new growth and has continued to increase in strength and spirit up to the present time. Mr. Atkinson was a Captain in the Church Army, the evangelistic organization of laymen and women of the church. He took Holy Orders when in Quakertown.

The Reverend Dr. Theodore Schneider succeeded Mr. Atkinson from 1942 to 1945. Then came the Reverend William LaRue Witmer who was vicar until 1950. The Reverend Kenneth Rodgers, vicar for the next two years, was the first to occupy the present rectory with his family. The rectory at 216 S. 4th Street was given to Emmanuel Church by the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Under the next vicar, the Reverend William David Leech, 1952-1954, the church was vastly improved by interior redecoration and remodeling, participated in chiefly by members of the congregation. There were new memorials, especially the altar and lectern given by the William J. Harbers family. During his ministry at Emmanuel Mr. Leech was ordained to the priesthood. Steps were taken that ultimately led to parish status for Emmanuel, but that remained for the ministry of the last vicar.

The Reverend Richard K. Bauder succeeded Mr. Leech in 1954. Building on the sacrifice and prayers of over three generations, he added his strength to so build up the life of the mission that it asked for and secured parish status in

1957. The Reverend Bauder left Emmanuel in May 1959 to become Rector of Grace Church, Mount Airy.

Our present Rector came to Quakertown from St. Mary's Church, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania in August of 1959.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The main topic of discussion at the Parish Meeting in December 1957 was the feasibility of making drastic repairs to our church building, or should a building program for the future be considered. It was voted to consider a building program for a new church and parish house. In early 1958 our Vestry appointed a Building Committee.

The Building Committee's first meeting was held April 12, 1958. Mr. Stanley Thompson was elected chairman. The first problems were; "What kind", "Where", and "How". The members grouped as "Survey", "Site", and "Finance" committees.

The Survey Committee undertook to obtain information concerning the past growth, the trend of present growth and what was the projected growth of Quakertown and vicinity. The statistics for this information were obtained from school records, census records, the telephone company and the Bucks County Planning Commission. With this data, the Survey Committee could recommend the size and needs for our future church.

The Site Committee presented at least fourteen locations as possible sites for our church. These properties were inspected one by one by the entire Building Committee. In May 1959, the property at Ninth Street at South Main Street, Quakertown, was presented to the Vestry for its consideration. In September 1959, our Vestry

purchased this property as our future church site.

The Finance Committee's project was to determine how to undertake the financing of the new building. Numerous meetings were held with Diocesan representatives, and plans outlined. After an estimated cost was determined, plans were formulated for a three-year pledge program, commencing January 29, 1961, ending January 26, 1964, with the expectation of having a new church at the end of the three-year program or shortly thereafter.

At the meeting of January 28, 1960, three years after the decision to look into a future building program, the name of Roland T. Addis, Architect, was proposed and forwarded to the Vestry. The Vestry approved the selection of Mr. Addis as our architect. Beginning in January 1960, Mr. Addis prepared plans and a scale model and has worked very closely with the Building Committee and Vestry presenting the details of our future church.

In January 1963, Mr. Raymond Wagner, Jr., was appointed chairman of the Building Committee, after the resignation of Mr. William Thomas, who had moved from the vicinity.

Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on Sunday September 29, 1963. The weather, as all present will remember, was most inclement with an incessant downpour. However, spirits rose to

the occasion in spite of the rain and spadesful of earth were dug by the officers of the church organizations and the children of the Sunday School.

The Laying of the Corner Stone took place on Sunday, June 28, 1964. Articles of importance and significance were blessed and formally placed in the corner stone by the Reverend Frederick V. Kettle, Rector. Present at this solemn occasion were the congregation, the Junior and Senior Choirs, Mr. Lawrence A. Buck, builder, Mr. Roland T. Addis, architect, and Mr. Raymond Hartley, site superintendent for Lawrence A. Buck & Sons Co., Inc. North Wales, Pa.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH BUILDING COMMITTEE

Present Committee

Raymond A. Wagner, Jr. - Chairman
Mrs. George H. Trumbower, Secretary
Frank Bockius
George S. Esayian, D.O.
Mrs. Emily Higgenbottom
Mrs. Homer James
Charles J. Leidigh
Ira Ross
William Roth, Jr.

Former Members (*Deceased)

*Harry Ahrens
Ralph Evans
*Robert Haines
Joseph Harr
Mrs. Paul Hursh
Arthur Mitchell
William Thomas
*Stanley Thompson
*Willard Tice, M.D.
Mrs. Chas. Wehmeyer
Stephen Wisner

.....OF SEVERAL GREAT AND GOOD MEN, NOW PROMOTED TO EVEN MORE GREATNESS AND GOODNESS.....

When one looks at the new church on this day, the Feast of the beloved physician and Evangelist, St. Luke, one's heart is filled with gratitude to God for the life and work of another physician. One who in his own life and vocation served the same Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in the work of His beloved, the Church. We speak of Willard Hiram Tice, physician of Quakertown. He, in his unstinting work and enthusiasm, inflamed many others with zeal to give their utmost to this work. Without him this new church would have been impossible. But, it was not only in the magnificence of his living, we praise God for him. We bear witness to the heroic way in which he faced death. Here was, and is forever, a great man, a good man, a Christian man!

Of equal praiseworthiness is another great, good and Christian man, Harry Ahrens, architect. He gave joyfully of his time and talents to the church in all of its work, and especially in the matter of the building of this, its glorious house. How he would have liked to have been with us for this day! We are confident that, in Greater Life, he is more present than we could imagine, with us in the presence of God before our altar. Oh that he did not die! But God calls him to even more joy and greatness in His Ever-

lasting Kingdom.

We remember another great and good Christian man in Stanley Thompson. Wors alone do not express our gratefulness. This work of a new church was initiated under his guidance and inspired by his life and vision. With God, he too, beholds and blesses us this day.

Finally, of our great and good Christian men, we name Robert Haines, devout and ardent soldier and servant of Jesus Christ. How can we calculate our loss when he was called from us! It would be as futile an effort as would be to count all of his well-doing! In the planning of the new church we particularly remember his work. Truly Bob and Florence must be with us now, doing that which so typified their lives here on earth, praising God with their lips and their lives!

May the rest of all of them be in peace and in radiance of Perpetual Light!

DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH DESIGN

The design of the Church and accessory buildings was, to a large degree, dictated by basic decisions of the Building Committee, Rector and Architect. The flat ground and high water table eliminated consideration of a basement floor which permitted placing the first floor level close to the ground with a minimum of steps. The gentle slope of the ground permitted a higher ceiling in the large Parish Hall without a change in roof levels.

In order that the Church Building might dominate the group, it was placed on the highest part of the site and the roof given a steep pitch to accentuate this height. The shape of this roof was suggested by a famous piece of sculpture entitled "The Praying Hands" by Michelangelo. The Church is basically a cruciform plan with the Altar placed directly in the Transept Crossing. When future expansion dictates, the Transepts can be readily extended, each side to double seating capacity and yet retain the Altar in full view of

the entire congregation. The Choir and Organ placed in the head of the Cross facing the congregation made possible the finest of musical arrangements and permits the Choirmaster to conduct his Choir without being seen by the congregation. The lighted glass spire over the crossing provides a beacon at night for all to see.

The Choir and Rector robing areas are placed at the Narthex end of the Church which allows a natural sequence for the traditional Processional and Recessional of the Choir and Clergy to and from the Altar at the beginning and closing of the service.

The Court formed by the position of the wings provides a protected area for fellowship after services with ready access to the Parish Hall and kitchen area.

The building materials were confined to a basic stone, concrete and timber. The color of stone dictated a simple color scheme of brown and white.

Roland Taylor Addis
Architect

THOSE WHO WERE SUBCONTRACTORS FOR THE BUILDING OF THIS CHURCH...UNDER LAURENCE A. BUCK & SON GENERAL CONTRACTORS, NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

Sitework, Seeding and Paving

Derstine & Swartley, Telford

Reinforced Rods, etc.

American Steel Engineering Co., Philadelphia

Concrete Work

Rosenberger Concreting Co., Lansdale

Stone Work

Dominic Volpicelli, Norristown

Block Work

R. & M. Musselman, Inc., Souderton

Lumber

Glenside Lumber & Coal Co., Glenside

Insulation

Rock Wool Insulating Co., Philadelphia

Millwork

Keath Planing Mill Co., Lititz

Alum Windows

Michael Flynn Mfg. Co., Philadelphia

Rough Hardware

Benner's Hardware Store, Quakertown

Finish Hardware

McAuliffe & Sons, Inc., Fort Washington

Erections

Charles E. Starr, Bridgeport

Miscellaneous Iron, Spire

Bethlehem Iron Works, Inc., Bethlehem

Structural Steel

Steuber Steel, Ambler

Roof & Sheetmetal Work

Kitson Brothers, Ambler

Lath & Plaster

C. D. Leidy, Lansdale

Paint

C. W. Snyder Painting Co., Norristown

Glass & Glaze, etc.

North Penn Glass & Mirror Co., Quakertown

Wood Floor

Paul S. Tyson, Hatfield

Resilient Floor

Badman's Furniture, Lansdale

Metal T Partition

James A. Clancy Co., Philadelphia

Laminated Trusses & Wood Deck

Lawrencewood Sales Corp., Lawrenceville, N.J.

Weatherstrip

Chamberlin of Philadelphia, Hatfield

Plumbing

Arthur G. Booth, Quakertown

Heating & Ventilating

Edge Brothers, Quakertown

Electrical Work

H. F. Wampold, Gwynedd

Carpentry & Supervision

Lawrence A. Buck & Son, Inc., North Wales

SPECIAL SERVICES
for
The Opening of the New Church
Vigil of Prayer and Thanksgiving
Saturday, October 17th through Sunday, October 18th
10 p.m. until 10 a.m. in the new church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th, (ST. LUKE'S DAY)
* * * * FIRST SERVICE IN THE NEW CHURCH * * * * *

Holy Communion and Sermon
Blessing of Memorials
Opening of cornerstone of old church (1889)
4 p.m. Church open for inspection by members,
friends, and neighbors.
7:30 p.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon

Participating Clergy:

The Rev'd Raymond E. Cole, Jr., B.A., B.Th. Curate
Grace Church Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.
Son of this church.
The Rev'd Packard Okie, B.A., B.D., Rector
St. Margaret's Church, Emmaus, Pa.
Neighbor.
The Rev'd Richard K. Bouder, B.A., Th.B., Rector
Grace Church, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.
Former rector of this church.
The Rev'd Christopher J. Atkinson, Th.B., Rector
St. Faith's Church, Havertown, Pa.
Former lay-vicar and priest-in-charge
of this church.

The Rev'd William LaRue Witmer, A.B., Th.B. (ret'd)
Vicar Cathedral Church of Christ, Roxborough, Pa.
Former Vicar of this church.
The Rev'd Dr. Nathanael B. Groton, B.A., S.T.B., D.D.
(ret'd) Rector, St. Thomas Church, Whitemarsh
Former dean of the convocation of which this
church is part. Friend. Benefactor.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th (The 22nd Sunday in Trinity)
4 p.m. Church open for inspection by members,
friends and neighbors.
7:30 p.m. Evening Prayer and Sermon
Music by Quakertown Community High School
Chorus, Mr. David Nagle, Director.
Participating Clergy:
The Rev'd Kenneth R. Rodgers, B.S., Th.B., Rector
St. John's Church, Huntington, Long Island, N.Y.
Former vicar of this church.
The Venerable Dean T. Stevenson, B.A., B.Th., M.A.
Archdeacon of the Diocese of Bethlehem.
Neighbor.
The Very Rev'd Robert Wainwright, B.A., B.D.
Rector, Messiah Church, Gwynedd, Pa.
Dean of Norristown Convocation (of which this
Church is part.)
The Rev'd Wilfred J. Penny, B.A., B.D., S.T.M.
Rector, Christ Church, Pottstown, Pa.
Neighbor.
The Rev'd Dr. Charles Long, Sr., A.B., Th.B., D.D.
(ret'd) Executive Secretary, Diocese of
Pennsylvania. Friend of this church.

1964

M. Homer James
C. Richard Leidigh
Nicholas Luca
C. Mertens Weyland
Charles J. Leidigh
Keith Getz
James A. Angstadt
William A. Roth, Jr.
Otto M. Fink
Joseph L. Harr
William T. Matson
George H. Trumbower

OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Women of Emmanuel

President: Mrs. Keith Getz
Vice President: Mrs. Leon Shelly
Secretary: Mrs. James Angstadt
Treasurer Miss Barbara Harbers

Men of Emmanuel

President: Nicholas Luca
Vice President: Keith Getz
Secretary: James A. Angstadt
Treasurer: Stanley Scheetz

Altar Guild

Directress: Mrs. Emily Higgenbottom

Young People's Fellowship

President: Nancy Luca
Vice President: Ralph Cole
Secretary: Pamela Cole
Treasurer:

Leonard C. McCarraher - Organist & Choirmaster
Mrs. Wm. B. Hertsch - Parish Secretary
Charles Keller - Sexton